

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 00903 281557Z

60

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /075 W

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P 281432Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6821

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 0903

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, IV, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH COOPERATION MINISTER LIPKOWSKI VISITS IVORY COAST

1. FRENCH MINISTER JEAN DE LIPKOWSKI VISITED IVORY COAST JANUARY 25-27 FOR FIRST VISIT IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF COOPERATION. LIPKOWSKI RECEIVED WARM WELCOME AND VIP TREATMENT FROM GOIC AND PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TO WHOM LIPKOWSKI PAID LAVISH PRAISE. PROGRAM INCLUDED CALLS ON LEADING GOIC OFFICIALS WITH LUNCH HOSTED BY HOUPHOUET AND DINNER BY FONMIN USHER. IN ADDITION TO SCHEDULED MEETING WITH HOUPHOUET IN MORNING, LIPKOWSKI WAS RECALLED TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT 8 PM FOR UNSCHEDULED SECOND MEETING PRIOR TO GOING ON TO FOREIGN MINISTRY DINNER.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW, LIPKOWSKI ALLUDED TO "SPECIAL PROBLEMS" WHICH IVORY COAST PRESENTED FROM COOPERATION VIEWPOINT IN THAT IT WAS SCARCELY AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY ANY LONGER. LIPKOWSKI REFERRED TO ANNUAL INCREASE OF GNP AT RATE OF SEVEN TO EIGHT PER CENT AND TO INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRESSING AT EIGHTEEN PER CENT. LIPKOWSKI SAID HE LAST VISITED IVORY COAST TEN YEARS AGO BUT THAT THE PROGRESS MADE SINCE THEN "HAD TRANSFORMED THE FACE OF THE COUNTRY."

3. LIPKOWSKI DEPARTED ABIDJAN FOR PARIS JANUARY 27. HE

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HAD PREVIOUSLY VISITED MAURITANIA, SENEGAL AND GABON. SMITH

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